AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0055] Once the core barrel has been inserted into the ground to the appropriate depth for the required soil sample, it may be withdrawn by removing the entire drill string. Once withdrawn, the soil sample may be obtained by unscrewing the adapter coupling 12 and drive shoe 14 from the respective ends of the core barrel. One or both of the halves 110a, 110b may then be axially slid with respect to one another until locking tabs 142, 152 **of locking configurations 160** are offset and become **released**/disengaged from one another. This allows the halves to be separated so that the soil sample may be readily accessed.